



Wastewater Utility
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Whitewater, WI 53190

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Sump Pump Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: I have a sump pump discharging to my drain or sanitary line and have never had a problem with it?

A: This may be the case but sump pump discharges become part of a much larger system. Discharges of sump pump water etc. are illegal per City Ordinance 16.14.570. Discharges can cause problems for a neighbor or area properties located at lower elevations. In addition, these flows reach the Wastewater Facility where they take up valuable capacity needed to properly treat sanitary waste in order to maintain high water quality standards. High flows caused by sumps pumps have the ability to cause significant quality issues in the discharges from the Wastewater Facility into our local environment.

Typical homes contribute approximately 200 gallons of flow per day. Sump pumps can pump upwards of 5,000 gallons per day or 25 times that of the average household.

2. Q: How can I prevent water from coming into my basement?

A: Direct water away from your home with rain gutters and downspouts directed 3-5' away from the foundation.

Shape the landscape grade away from the foundation and look for possible obstructions that could prohibit water from flowing away from your home.

Direct sump pump discharges away from the home foundation to avoid the recycling of water already pumped.

3. Q: Where should I run my sump pump discharge?

A: Sump pump discharges should be plumbed outside of your home to be discharged on to your lawn in a manner not to negatively affect adjoining properties. Discharges can also be plumbed into a storm catch basin or to the curb line for proper direction into the storm water system.

4. Q: Who do I call in order to verify I am plumbing my sump pump correctly?

A: The Wastewater Facility can be reached for questions and inspections at 262-473-0560, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

5. Q: Do I need a permit to connect or correct a sump pump discharge?

A: A permit is not needed unless you plan on connecting directly to an existing storm sewer or altering the sidewalk or curb area in directing your sump pump flow.

6. Q: My drain tile discharges directly into my sanitary sewer line. Is this considered an illegal connection?

A: Yes. This connection is still allowing unnecessary clear water to be discharged into the city sanitary system. It also can become a large concern for a homeowner in a "basement backup" situation. It is a plumbing design that needs to be addressed through use of a sump pump installation.

7. Q: I have a very unique situation in the plumbing of my sump pump that could have safety or large economic impacts. What should I do?

A: Variances to this ordinance will be allowed strictly on a case by case basis. Please contact the Wastewater Utility at 262-473-0560 to have an inspection done and discuss feasible alternatives and solutions.

G:/Common/Projects/Sump Pump/Q&A Final Sump Pump Info
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